

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BU, RO

SUBJECT: MACOVESCU VISIT TO BULGARIA CONCLUDES

REF: SOFIA 0792

1. ROMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MACOVESCU DEPARTED BULGARIA MAY 22 AFTER FIVE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT DURING WHICH HE WAS RECEIVED BY ZHIVKOV AND TODOROV IN ADDITION TO HIS TALKS WITH BULGARIAN COUNTERPART MLADENOV.

2. RATHER SPARSE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED THROWS NO REAL LIGHT ON SUBSTANCE OF DISCUSSIONS ALTHOUGH IT DOES EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE OF BILATERAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION. BOTH MINISTERS EXPRESSED USUAL DESIRE FOR GREATER ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION "WITHIN THE SPIRIT OF SOCIALIST ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AS EXPRESSED BY THE 25TH SESSION OF CEMA". COMMUNIQUE ALSO CALLS FOR INCREASED COOPERATION IN FIELDS OF CULTURE, ART, SCIENCE AND TOURISM.

3. ON FOREIGN POLICY COMMUNIQUE SIMPLY AVOIDS ISSUES SUCH AS MIDDLE EAST, VIETNAM AND EVEN CHILE, DEALING SOLELY WITH EUROPEAN AND BALKAN QUESTIONS. BOTH SUPPORT EARLY WRAPUP OF CSCE GENEVA SESSION IN ORDER TO MOVE TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HELSINKI MEETING AT HIGHEST LEVEL "IN NEAR FUTURE".

COMMUNIQUE SPEAKS OF "BOTH COUNTRIES STRIVING FOR GOOD-NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS" IN BALKANS, NAME FOR WHICH IS BULGARIAN-ROMANIAN RELATIONS.

4. COMMENT: MACOVESCU, OF COURSE, HAD TOUGHT ACT TO FOLLOW, AND IT IS UNLIKELY THAT MUCH NEW GROUND WAS COVERED THAT HAD NOT ALREADY BEEN DEALT WITH EXTENSIVELY AT RECENT ZHIVKOV-CEAUSESCU SUMMIT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT AT THAT MEETING TWO LEADERS HAD OVER SEVEN HOURS OF TETE-A-TETE DISCUSSIONS, AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW ALSO FULL RANGE OF BILATERAL PROBLEMS. WE HAVE NOT YET HAD READING FROM ROMANIAN EMBASSY HERE ON MACOVESCU VISIT, BUT ONE ROMANIAN DIPLOMAT SAID ATMOSPHERE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS "HAD CONSIDERABLY BRIGHTENED IN LAST FEW WEEKS". WHILE THAT MAY BE TRUE, IT IS NOT REFLECTED IN MACOVESCU COMMUNIQUE WHICH STRIKES US AS RATHER STANDARD BOILERPLATE.

5. POSSIBLY WITHOUT SIGNIFICANCE WAS MACOVESCU'S REPLY WHEN AT ROMANIAN RECEPTION JUST PRECEDING HIS DEPARTURE. AMBASSADOR ASKED HIM THE USUAL ANOKJNE QUESTION WHETHER HIS VISIT HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL. THE FOREIGN MINISTER HESITATED A WHILE AND THEN SAID RATHER DRYLY THAT HE THOUGHT SO. HERZ

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